

1997 Tornado Fatalities

The NWS recorded 196 days with tornadoes during the year, matching 1996. The 1,148 tornadoes caused 67 fatalities and 1,033 injuries, up 42 deaths from 1996, but below the 30-year average of 69 tornado deaths annually. Of the 67 fatalities, 38 were in permanent homes, 15 in mobile homes, and 7 in the open. Thirty-five (35) were males, and 32 were females, with 71% of the fatalities occurring in the 10 to 49 age groups. Also, 26 (39%) persons perished in Arkansas and 29 (43%) in Texas. On March 1, an F4 tornado moved through central Arkansas, killing 25 and injuring 655 people. The tornado destroyed or severely damaged several blocks in downtown Arkadelphia. On May 27, tornadoes moved through Williamson County in south-central Texas, destroying much of the town of Jarrell, killing 28 and injuring 17. This tornado was a rare F5, reaching wind speeds of 261-318 mph.

1997 TORNADO FATALITIES BY STATE AND LOCATION

<u>STATE</u>	<u>BU</u>	<u>LS</u>	<u>MH</u>	<u>OT</u>	<u>OU</u>	<u>PH</u>	<u>SC</u>	<u>VE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
AL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
AR	3	0	8	0	5	8	0	2	26
GA	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
KY	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
MI	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
MN	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
MS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
ND	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
PA	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
SC	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TX	0	0	2	0	0	27	0	0	29
TOTAL	3	0	15	1	7	38	0	3	67
PERCENT	4	0	22	1	10	57	0	4	98*

(* Due to rounding total does not equal 100%)

1997 TORNADO FATALITIES BY AGE AND GENDER

	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
0 TO 9	1	1	0	2	3
10 TO 19	7	10	0	17	25
20 TO 29	2	3	0	5	7
30 TO 39	9	3	0	12	18
40 TO 49	7	7	0	14	21
50 TO 59	3	3	0	6	9
60 TO 69	1	4	0	5	7
70 TO 79	2	4	0	6	9
80 TO 89	0	0	0	0	0
90 TO --	0	0	0	0	0
UNKNOWN	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	32	35	0	67	99*
PERCENT	48	52	0	100	

(* Due to rounding total does not equal 100%)

LEGEND

BU - Business
 LS - Long-Span Roof
 MH - Mobile Home
 OT - Other/Unknown
 OU - Outside Open
 PH - Permanent Home
 SC - School
 VE - Vehicle